

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) ORDER SUSPENDING RATE
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE)
COMPANY FOR TARIFF REVISIONS) EL97-014

On July 15, 1997, Northwestern Public Service Company (Northwestern) filed tariff revisions with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Northwestern enclosed copies of Original Sheet Nos. 21, 21.1 and 21.2. Sheet Nos. 21.1 and 21.2 are descriptive of Northwestern's new Extended Service Rider, Option L. Northwestern proposed to phase in the eligibility of this scheduled service, with initial availability to customers with demands of at least 1,000 KW per month. Sheet No. 21.2 represents the discount contract to be signed by the customer. Northwestern proposed that Option L be approved effective August 15, 1997.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 18, 1997, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended suspending the rate up to 90 days.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-14. The Commission unanimously voted to suspend the rate up to 90 days after the proposed effective date. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the effective date for Northwestern's rate be suspended for no more than 90 days after the proposed effective date.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of August, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u><i>Delaine Halbo</i></u>
Date: <u>9/2/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner